

Draft
School Monitoring List – Talking Points

On March 31, 2009, EPA released a list of priority schools to be monitored for toxic air pollution, as part of Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's initiative to sample air outside schools to protect children.

EPA will use what it learns from this monitoring initiative to determine its next steps as it works to protect children's health where they live, play and learn.

EPA, state and local agencies will work together to monitor air toxics around 62 schools near large industrial facilities or in urban areas in 22 states.

EPA and states will monitor to answer questions about outdoor air quality around the schools on the list.

Measuring the levels of toxics in the air around the school will help EPA understand whether that air quality poses any health concerns.

Monitoring will begin almost immediately at some of the schools on the list. The rest will be phased over the next two to three months as monitors are purchased.

State and local air agencies will install and operate the monitors. EPA is redirecting \$2.25 from a competitive air toxics grant program to cover the cost of purchasing the monitors and the cost of laboratory analysis.

State and local agencies will take air quality samples over a 60-day period. EPA will analyze the monitoring results and will share that information with the public. This action is particularly critical in some low-income areas, which are sometimes disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. About one-third of the schools selected for monitoring serve low-income areas.

EPA and states will work with school communities to ensure that the monitoring and its results are understood. While the outdoor air quality is being monitored, EPA also will help interested schools learn how to improve the quality of the air indoors.

For more information on the monitoring initiative, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/schoolair>